

## Asbury Theological Seminary ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange

---

Syllabi

eCommons

---

1-1-2006

# MI 630 Biblical Theology of Mission

Howard A. Snyder

Follow this and additional works at: <http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi>

---

### Recommended Citation

Snyder, Howard A., "MI 630 Biblical Theology of Mission" (2006). *Syllabi*. Book 1621.  
<http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi/1621>

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the eCommons at ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. For more information, please contact [thad.horner@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:thad.horner@asburyseminary.edu).

Asbury Theological Seminary  
Spring Semester, 2006  
Thursdays, 8:00–10:45 a.m., SH230

Professor Howard A. Snyder  
Office: MC310 - Ext. 2262  
Home: 858-8964

## **MI630/MI730. BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF MISSION**

### **Description**

A study of principal texts in the Old and New Testaments dealing with mission, evangelism, discipling and renewal, with attention to relevant scholarly debate regarding their significance. 3 hours.

### **Objectives**

1. To study Scripture so that mission is based primarily in God's self-revelation.
2. To appreciate the whole biblical canon as significant for a biblical theology of mission.
3. To discern from Scripture both theological truths and practical models for mission.
4. To develop a biblical hermeneutic for cross-cultural mission.
5. To better understand the church as a missionary community.
6. To demonstrate the value of inductive study of Scripture for mission, evangelism, and discipling.

### **Course Method**

Direct study of Scripture will be the primary focus of the course. This will be supplemented by assigned reading. Class sessions will be devoted mostly to the study of particular biblical passages, plus discussion of readings and some lecture material.

We will follow the schedule indicated below. Normally there will be a break from about 9:15 to 9:30.

### **Texts**

*The Bible*. NRSV, NIV, or TNIV preferred.

*Colossians Remixed: Subverting the Empire*, by Brian Walsh and Sylvia Keesmaat. InterVarsity, 2004.

*Images of the Church in Mission*, by John Driver. Herald Press, 1997.

*Slaves, Women and Homosexuals: Exploring the Hermeneutics of Cultural Analysis*, by William J. Webb. InterVarsity, 2001.

### **Recommended Resources**

*Announcing the Kingdom: The Story of God's Mission in the Bible*. Glasser, Arthur F., with Charles E. Van Engen, Dean S. Gilliland, and Shawn B. Redford. Baker Academic, 2003.

*The Biblical Foundations for Mission*, by Donald Senior and Carroll Stuhlmueeller. Orbis, 1983.

*Kingdom, Church, and World*, by Howard A. Snyder. Wipf & Stock, 2002.

### **Course Bibliography**

A fairly extensive bibliography for this course is provided in the seminary network version of this syllabus, where it can be consulted, printed, or downloaded.

### **Course Requirements**

1. Participation in all class sessions, including taking an active, informed part in discussion.
2. Completion of readings and written assignments, as listed in the Class Schedule. For each class session, read first the listed Scriptures, then the assigned secondary reading. Note that there are three short written assignments, as indicated in the schedule. All students are expected to

complete the “Required reading,” as listed; MI730 students should complete as much of the “Recommended reading” as possible.

3. A book report comparing and contrasting the views and hermeneutical approach and understanding of mission of any two of the following books. Due March 30.

Arthur Glasser, *et al.*, *Announcing the Kingdom: The Story of God’s Mission in the Bible*  
 H. D. Beeby, *Canon and Mission*  
 Ion Bria, ed., *Go Forth in Peace: Orthodox Perspectives on Mission*  
 Francis M. DuBose, *God Who Sends*  
 Samuel Escobar, *The New Global Mission*  
 E. Stanley Jones, *Is the Kingdom of God Realism?*  
 Gerard Kelly, *Shepherd’s Bush to King’s Cross*  
 Köstenberger and O’Brien, *Salvation to the Ends of the Earth*  
 Larkin and Williams, eds., *Mission in the New Testament: An Evangelical Approach*  
 Günter Krallmann, *Mentoring for Mission*  
 C. René Padilla, *Mission Between the Times*  
 Clark C. Pinnock, *A Wideness in God’s Mercy or Most Moved Mover*  
 Senior and Stuhlmüller, *The Biblical Foundations for Mission*  
 Dan Sheffield, ed., *A Theology of Mission for Free Methodist Missions*  
 Wilbert Shenk, ed., *The Transfiguration of Mission*  
 Howard A. Snyder, *Liberating the Church: The Ecology of Church and Kingdom*  
 Snyder & Runyon, *Decoding the Church: Mapping the DNA of Christ’s Body*  
 Gailyn van Rhee, *Missions: Biblical Foundations and Contemporary Strategies*  
 N. T. Wright, *The Challenge of Jesus*  
 John Howard Yoder, *For the Nations*

4. A research paper delineating your own biblical theology of mission (20–30 pages). This should be based primarily on your own study of Scripture, though you may use secondary sources as relevant. Scripture references should be given in-text; for secondary works, use reference notes and bibliography.

Suggested methodologies: Trace a particular theme, or set of themes, through Scripture; or examine the theology of mission in up to four biblical books (including at least one O.T. book).

Some questions you may want to consider as you develop your paper: What key texts and/or hermeneutical approach will I use? What is God’s intent for people, the nations (or culture), and the creation? How are we to understand the central significance of God’s revelation through Jesus Christ? What is the role of the Holy Spirit in mission? In what sense is the church a missionary community? (You do not need to respond specifically to these questions, but such questions should inform the development of the biblical basis for your paper.)

The research paper is due May 11 but may be submitted earlier.

5. A take-home final exam consisting of three essay questions covering material studied during the course. The exam will be given out during the final class session and will be due in the ESJ School Office by 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 18.

### **Guidelines For Research Paper**

1. You may use either the anthropological style (recommended by the ESJ School) or the Chicago/Turabian style, but be consistent. The paper must be computer-printed, and should include appropriate documentation of sources cited or consulted. (See “Academic Writing in the ESJ School,” available as a hand-out from the ESJ School Office.)

2. Attach a title page giving the paper’s title, your name and SPO number (or off-campus address), course name and number, professor’s name, and date. Staple in upper left-hand corner. Please do not use a cover or binder. (I may later request a second clean copy of your paper for my files.)

3. The paper should be at least 20 pages, and not more than 30. The grade will depend on the content, development of the argument, and evidence of adequate *biblical* research, not length.

4. The paper should contain no spelling errors. Use a spell-checker.

5. Please avoid these common mistakes:

Improper or incomplete footnote/endnote style or bibliographic entry style

Improperly placed (for U.S. English) quotation marks:

|                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Correct: "mission." | Incorrect: "mission". |
| Correct: "mission," | Incorrect: "mission", |

Question marks, exclamation points, and semicolons are placed outside the quoted material unless they are part of the quotation. In blocked (indented) quotations of more than four lines, quotation marks at beginning and end of the quotation are unnecessary.

Improper use of *its* and *it's*.

*its* is a possessive, meaning "belonging to it."

*it's* is a contraction, meaning "it is."

Footnote reference numbers (if used) placed before a period or comma.

|                                  |                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Correct: "mission." <sup>1</sup> | Incorrect: "mission" <sup>1</sup> . |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

6. Students for whom English is not their natural language may want to get editorial assistance. I will evaluate only the final product. Correct English tends to have a favorable influence on grade.

### **Inclusive Language**

"It is the policy of Asbury Theological Seminary to use inclusive or non-sexist language in all Seminary publications, literature and communications" (Statement of Inclusive Language, ATS Website). This should be reflected also in students' written assignments, in all generic references to human beings—e.g., "humanity" or "humankind" rather than "mankind"; "her/his" or "their" rather than "him." It is appropriate to refer generically to a person (human being) as "her," "him," or "their." While cultural issues and sensitivities obviously enter here, in current U.S. English terms such as "man" and "mankind" are understood by many as *excluding* women, whatever the intent. So for theological and missiological reasons it is better to be inclusive. (See the seminary website for the policy statement and guidelines.)

**Attendance Policy:** See the current seminary *Catalog*, p. 25.

### **Evaluation**

In grading, the course components will be weighted approximately as follows:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Class participation, including input from readings | 25% |
| Short written assignments (3)                      | 15% |
| Book report  | 15% |
| Final paper  | 25% |
| Final exam   | 20% |

## CLASS SCHEDULE

- February 9: Introduction  
Study of Jonah  
The “Economy” of God  
Required reading: Book of Jonah; Walsh & Keesmaat, 7–37
- February 16: Universal History: Creation, Culture, the Nations (Genesis 1–11)  
Required reading: Driver, 8–35, 96–108; Walsh & Keesmaat, 38–48; Webb, 13–29  
Recommended reading: Senior & Stuhlmueeller, xi–54; Glasser, 11–68
- February 23: The Call of Abraham and the Nations (Genesis 12–28)  
Required reading: Driver, 46–67; Walsh & Keesmaat, 49–64; Webb, 30–70  
Recommended reading: Snyder, *KCW*, 9–35; Senior & Stuhlmueeller, 55–82; Glasser, 69–89
- March 2: Exodus and the Law (Ex. 1–40, Lev. 25–26, Amos 3, Deut. 18, Hos. 2, Isa. 61)  
Required reading: Driver, 68–81; Walsh & Keesmaat, 65–76; Webb, 73–105  
Recommended reading: Snyder, *KCW*, 59–74; Senior & Stuhlmueeller, 83–138; Glasser, 90–124  
\*Written assignment: What is the missional significance today of the call of Abraham? (3–5 pages)
- March 9: The Monarchy (1 Sam. 8–9, 1 Kgs. 8, Isa. 2, 9, 11, 25; Mic. 4–5, Zech. 8–9, Mal. 1)  
Required reading: Driver, 84–95; Walsh & Keesmaat, 79–95; Webb, 105–22  
Recommended reading: Snyder, *KCW*, 37–50; Senior & Stuhlmueeller, 141–60; Glasser, 125–39
- March 16: The Promised Messiah (Isa. 40–66, Ezek. 36–37, Dan. 7)  
Required reading: Driver, 109–23; Walsh & Keesmaat, 96–114; Webb, 123–52  
Recommended reading: Snyder, *KCW*, 51–58, 74–76; Senior & Stuhlmueeller, 161–210; Glasser, 140–79
- March 23: Jesus Christ: Turning Point of History (Lk. 1–2, Jn. 1, Eph. 1, Col. 1, Hebrews)  
Required reading: Driver, 126–52; Walsh & Keesmaat, 115–44  
Recommended reading: Senior & Stuhlmueeller, 211–54; Glasser, 181–212  
\*Written assignment: What key missiological themes emerge from Luke 1–2, John 1, Eph. 1, Col. 1, and Hebrews 1? (3–5 pages)
- March 30: The Kingdom of God (Matthew, Mark, Lk. 4, Rev. 4–7)  
Required reading: Driver, 153–67; Walsh & Keesmaat, 147–68; Webb 152–84  
Recommended reading: Snyder, *KCW*, 79–93; Senior & Stuhlmueeller, 255–79; Glasser, 213–56
- April 6 – [NO CLASS – Reading Week]
- April 13: The Missional Community (Mt. 28, Lk. 12–14, 24; Acts, Rom. 12, Eph. 2–6)  
Required reading: Driver, 170–81; Walsh & Keesmaat, 169–200; Webb, 185–206  
Recommended reading: Senior & Stuhlmueeller, 280–96; Glasser, 257–84  
\*Written assignment: What is the relationship between the church and the Kingdom of God? (3–5 pages)
- April 20: Redemptive Community and Culture (1 Cor., Colossians, Heb. 12–13)  
Required reading: Driver, 36–44; Walsh & Keesmaat, 201–19; Webb, 209–35

Recommended reading: Snyder, *KCW*, 95–120; Orlando Costas, *Christ Outside the Gate*; Escobar, *The New Global Mission*

- April 27: Sin, Salvation, and Mission (John, Romans, James, 1 John)  
Required reading: Driver, 182–207; Walsh & Keesmaat, 220–33; Webb, 236–44  
Recommended reading: Senior & Stuhlmüller, 297–312; Glasser, 285–311
- May 4: Final Judgment and Restoration (Mt. 24–25, Mk. 16, Acts 3, Revelation)  
Required reading: Driver, 210–28; Webb, 245–56  
Recommended reading: Senior & Stuhlmüller, 315–48; Glasser, 312–25
- May 11: Review and Summary  
Recommended reading: Webb, 257–78; Glasser, 327–73

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Allen, Roland. *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?* London: World Dominion Press 1956.
- Anderson, Gerald H., ed. *The Theology of the Christian Mission*. London: SCM Press, 1961.
- Arias, Mortimer, and Alan Johnson. *The Great Commission: Biblical Models for Evangelism*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1992.
- Arias, Mortimer. *Announcing the Reign of God: Evangelization and the Subversive Memory of Jesus*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1984.
- Banks, Robert. *God the Worker: Journeys into the Mind, Heart, and Imagination of God*. Claremont, CA: Albatross Books, 1992.
- Banks, Robert. *Paul's Idea of Community: The Early House Churches in their Historical Setting*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.
- Beeby, H. D. *Canon and Mission*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press, 1999.
- Beyerhaus, Peter. "World Evangelization and the Kingdom of God," International Congress on World Evangelization, Lausanne, July 16–25, 1974. Reprinted in J. D. Douglas, ed. *Let the Earth Hear His Voice*. Minneapolis: World Wide, 1974. Pp. 283–95.
- Beyerhaus, Peter. *Shaken Foundations: Theological Foundations for Mission*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1972.
- Billington, Anthony, Tony Lane, and Max Turner, eds. *Mission and Meaning: Essays Presented to Peter Cotterell*. Carlisle, UK: Paternoster, 1995. Part I: "Biblical Perspectives."
- Blauw, Johannes. *The Missionary Nature of the Church*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1962.
- Bosch, David. *Witness to the World: The Christian Mission in Theological Perspective*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1980.
- Braaten, Carl E. *The Flaming Center*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1977.
- Bria, Ion, ed. *Go Forth in Peace: Orthodox Perspectives on Mission*. Geneva: World Council of Churches, 1986.
- Bright, John. *The Kingdom of God: The Biblical Concept and Its Meaning for the Church*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1953.
- Bruce, F. F. *Israel and the Nations*. Exeter, UK: Paternoster, 1970.
- Coleman, Robert E. *The Master Plan of Discipleship*. Old Tappan, NJ: Revell, 1987.
- Coleman, Robert E. *The Master Plan of Evangelism* [1963], with Study Guide. Tarrytown, NY: Revell, 1972.
- Costas, Orlando E. *Christ Outside the Gate: Mission Beyond Christendom*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1982.
- Costas, Orlando E. *The Church and Its Mission: A Shattering Critique from the Third World*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1974.
- Crossman, Meg, ed. *Worldwide Perspectives: Understanding God's Purposes in the World from Genesis to Revelation*. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1995.
- Dempster, Murray A., Byron D. Klaus, and Douglas Peterson, ed. *Called and Empowered: Global Mission in Pentecostal Perspective*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1991. Section I: "Biblical and Theological Dimensions of Global Mission in the Pentecostal Tradition."
- DeRidder, R. R. *Discipling the Nations*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1975.
- Drane, John. *Cultural Change and Biblical Faith*. Cumbria, UK: Paternoster, 2000.

- Driver, John. *Images of the Church in Mission*. Scottdale, PA: Herald Press, 1997.
- DuBose, Francis M. *God Who Sends: A Fresh Quest for Biblical Mission*. Nashville: Broadman, 1983.
- Dyrness, William A. *Let the Earth Rejoice! A Biblical Theology of Holistic Mission*. Westchester, IL: Crossway, 1983; Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 1998.
- Escobar, Samuel. *The New Global Mission: The Gospel From Everywhere To Everywhere*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2003.
- Filbeck, David. *Yes, God of the Gentiles, Too: The Missionary Message of the Old Testament*. Wheaton, IL: Billy Graham Center, 1994.
- Gallagher, Robert L., and Paul Hertig, eds. *Mission in Acts: Ancient Narratives in Contemporary Context*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2004.
- Glasser, Arthur F., with Charles E. Van Engen, Dean S. Gilliland, and Shawn B. Redford. *Announcing the Kingdom: The Story of God's Mission in the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.
- Gnanakan, Ken. *Kingdom Concerns: A Biblical Theology of Mission Today*. Leicester, UK: InterVarsity, 1989, 1993.
- Hedlund, Roger E. *Roots of the Great Debate in Mission: Mission in Historical and Theological Perspective*. Rev. ed. Bangalore, India: Theological Book Trust, 1993.
- Jeremias, Joachim. *Jesus' Promise to the Nations*. Trans. S. H. Hooke. London: SCM, 1958.
- Jones, E. Stanley. *Is the Kingdom of God Realism?* New York: Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1940.
- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *Mission in the Old Testament: Israel as a Light to the Nations*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000.
- Kelly, Gerard. *Shepherd's Bush to King's Cross: Spring Harvest 2003 Study Guide*. Uckfield, UK: Spring Harvest, 2002.
- Köstenberger, Andreas J., and Peter T. O'Brien, *Salvation to the Ends of the Earth: A Biblical Theology of Mission*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2001.
- Krallmann, Günter. *Mentoring for Mission: A Handbook on Leadership Principles Exemplified by Jesus Christ*. Hong Kong: Jenco Ltd., 1994.
- Kraybill, Donald B. *The Upside Down Kingdom*. Scottdale, PA: Herald Press, 1978.
- Ladd, George E. *The Gospel of the Kingdom*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.
- Larkin, William JR., and Joel F. Williams, eds. *Mission in the New Testament: An Evangelical Approach*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1998.
- Marston, Paul. *Gay-Partnerships and the Jesus-Centered Church*. Leyland, UK: Paul Marston, 2004. Note the critique of Webb's *Slaves, Women and Homosexuals*, pp. 140–67.
- N. T. Wright, N. T. *The Challenge of Jesus*. London: SPCK, 2000.
- Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Open Secret*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.
- Padilla, C. René. *Mission Between the Times: Essays on the Kingdom of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985.
- Park, Eung Chun. *The Mission Discourses in Matthew's Interpretation*. Tübingen: J.C.B. Mohr, 1995.
- Peters, George W. *A Biblical Theology of Missions*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1972.
- Pinnock, Clark H. *A Wideness in God's Mercy: The Finality of Jesus Christ in a World of Religions*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.



- Pinnock, Clark H. *Most Moved Mover: A Theology of God's Openness*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- Priest, Doug, ed. *The Gospel Unhindered: Modern Missions in the Book of Acts*. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1994.
- Rzepkowski, A. *The Theology of Mission*. Verbum SVD, 15:1 (1974).
- Scott, Waldron. *Bring Forth Justice: A Contemporary Perspective on Mission*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.
- Senior, Donald, and Carroll Stuhlmueller. *The Biblical Foundations for Mission*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1983.
- Sheffield, Dan, ed. *A Theology of Mission for Free Methodist World Missions*. [Dept. of World Missions, Free Methodist Church of North America, 2003.]
- Shenk, Wilbert R., ed. *The Transfiguration of Mission: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Foundations*. Scottdale, PA: Herald Press, 1993.
- Snyder, Howard A. "Creation Care and the Mission of God." *Creation Care* 26 (Fall 2004), 6–7, 18.
- Snyder, Howard A. *Kingdom, Church, and World: Bible Themes for Today* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2002). Reprint (with new Preface) of *A Kingdom Manifesto* (1985).
- Snyder, Howard A. *Liberating the Church: The Ecology of Church and Kingdom*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1983; Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 1996.
- Snyder, Howard A. *Models of the Kingdom*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1991.
- Snyder, Howard A. *The Community of the King*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1977.
- Snyder, Howard A., with Daniel V. Runyon. *Decoding the Church: Mapping the DNA of Christ's Body*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2002.
- Thompson, David. "Women, Men, Slaves and the Bible: Hermeneutical Inquiries," *Christian Scholar's Review* (March, 1996), 25/3:326–49.
- Trites, Allison A. *New Testament Concept of Witness*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1977.
- Trocmé, André. *Jesus and the Nonviolent Revolution*. Scottdale, PA: Herald Press, 1973.
- Van Rhee, Gailyn. *Missions: Biblical Foundations and Contemporary Strategies*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
- Vicedom, Georg F. *The Mission of God: An Introduction to a Theology of Mission*. St. Louis, MO: Concordia, 1965.
- Volf, Miroslav. *Exclusion and Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.
- Walsh, Brian J., and Sylvia C. Keesmaat. *Colossians Remixed: Subverting the Empire*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2004.
- Wakabayashi, Allen M. *Kingdom Come: How Jesus Wants to Change the World*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2003.
- Webb, William J. *Slaves, Women and Homosexuals: Exploring the Hermeneutics of Cultural Analysis*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2001.
- West, Cornel. *Prophesy Deliverance! An Afro-American Revolutionary Christianity*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1982.
- Winter, Ralph D., and Steven Hawthorne, eds. *Perspectives on the Christian World Movement: A Reader*. Rev. ed. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1992. Section A: "The Biblical Perspective."

- Wright, Christopher J. H. *Old Testament Ethics for the People of God*. Revised and updated ed. Leicester, UK: 2004.
- Wright, N. T. *The Challenge of Jesus*. London, SPCK, 2000.
- Wright, N. T. *Jesus and the Victory of God*. Vol. 2 of *Christian Origins and the Question of God*. London, SPCK, 1996.
- Yoder, John Howard. *For the Nations: Essays Public and Evangelical*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.
- Yoder, John Howard. *The Politics of Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972.
- Zahniser, A. H. Mathias. "We Have Found Water: Patriarchal Paradigms for Cross-Cultural Mission." *The Asbury Theological Journal* 42:2 (Fall, 1987), 21–43.